

Subject: Re: Surfeyng the Dity's sidewalks

From: mike bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org>

Date: 08/29/2012 02:15 PM

To: John Ruhlen <jruhlen916@aol.com>, "Bill.Rosendahl@lacity.org" <Bill.Rosendahl@lacity.org>, "arturo.pina@lacity.org" <arturo.pina@lacity.org>, "nate.kaplan@lacity.org" <nate.kaplan@lacity.org>, "kentwoodnw@aol.com" <kentwoodnw@aol.com>, "pat8lyon@gmail.com" <pat8lyon@gmail.com>, "bill@aol.com" <bill@aol.com>, "jsdla@aol.com" <jsdla@aol.com>, "spiervin@gmail.com" <spiervin@gmail.com>, "duckworth.donald@gmail.com" <duckworth.donald@gmail.com>, "kdial@hbdrollinger.com" <kdial@hbdrollinger.com>, "Miki@hbdrollinger.com" <Miki@hbdrollinger.com>, "mhuffman@playavista.com" <mhuffman@playavista.com>, "rbmusella@earthlink.net" <rbmusella@earthlink.net>

Here is today's release:

Councilman Bill Rosendahl Email

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 29, 2012

CONTACT:
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GARCETTI, ROSENDAHL & BUSCAINO CALL FOR CHEAPER, FASTER SIDEWALK SURVEY

Sidewalk Assessment Motion Introduced Today Calls for Less Costly Alternative

LOS ANGELES -- A motion authored by Councilmembers Eric Garcetti and Bill Rosendahl and seconded by Councilmember Joe Buscaino demands that city staff go back to the drawing board and come up with a better way to assess the city's sidewalks than according to current estimates of a cost "well over \$10 million" and a timeline of three years to complete.

"We can't afford to wait three years and spend \$10 million on a study while our sidewalks are crumbling below our feet right now," said Garcetti, whose office every year executes a street-by-street graffiti assessment in a single day and who is a member of the Public Works Committee.

"There has to be a much faster and much smarter way to catalog our crumbling and buckling sidewalks," said Rosendahl, who is Chair of the Transportation Committee. "Why not tap into the networks of thousands of community activists in the City? Why not use cutting-edge technology and smartphone apps? We have the energy and creativity to do this better and cheaper."

"Coming from the police department, I'm used to responding to critical situations immediately. While broken sidewalks may not require flashing lights and sirens, we must address the problem with a much greater sense of urgency, and a focus on efficiency and cost-effectiveness," said Buscaino, who is Chair of the Public Works Committee and a leading voice for comprehensive sidewalk repair.

Last week, the Public Works Committee received a report from the Bureau of Street Services exploring various options for comprehensive sidewalk repair. The Bureau also estimated that a comprehensive assessment of the city's sidewalks would cost "well over \$10 million" and would take three years.

Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Paul Koretz signed the motion on behalf of their colleagues Garcetti, who is currently serving on U.S. Navy duty, and Rosendahl, who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer.

See this [LA Times story](#) for additional background. The motion can be found [here](#).

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On Tue, Aug 28, 2012 at 1:11 PM, mike bonin <mike.bonin@lacity.org> wrote:
John-you've read my mind. I had the same reaction to the story and hit the roof. Absolutely ludicrous. There are ways to do this with community resources and technology. I have been working all day with Councilman Garcetti's office, and we will have a motion tomorrow, cosponsored by Eric and Bill, that addresses this very issue.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2012, at 12:32 PM, John Ruhlen <jruhlen916@aol.com> wrote:

Hello,

The article in this morning's Times about the City's sidewalks and the City Council's \$10,000,000 plan to conduct a survey blows my mind. Why not put that money toward fixing the sidewalks where it is needed. Talk about misuse of our tax dollars.

Has the City Council considered having each Neighborhood Council do their own survey and distribute the \$10 million among the Neighborhood Councils to bid, get permits, hire the contractors needed. The sidewalks could be inspected by City inspectors to make sure the work comply with City' requirements.

Each Neighborhood Councils know where the bad sidewalks are within their own district.

Now much more efficient this approach would be than the path the City is taking. Obviously details would need to be worked out for this approach.

I must toot the horn of the Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association for being ahead of of this issue. This week nine Ficus trees have been removed, broken sidewalks are being removed today, tree stumps and roots come out after tomorrow, followed by framing and pouring the new sidewalks. Thirty-nine new trees have been ordered and will be planted after the sidewalks are cured. Those thirty-nine City approved trees are replacing nine ficus trees. This construction plan requires

two weeks from start to finish.

The project is located on the west side of Sepulveda Blvd. between 77th Street and 80th Street.

I would like to suggest that the City rethink their actions on this matter and come up with a more sensible plan.

John Ruhlen

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